Amendment

In The Claims

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A method for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising a porous matrix formed of at least one hydrophilic or hydrophobic excipient and microparticles of a drug, wherein the microparticles have a mean diameter between about 0.1 and 5 μm and a total surface area greater than about 0.5 m^2/mL, and wherein the dry porous matrix is in a dry powder form having a TAP density less than or equal to 1.0 g/mL and having a total surface area of greater than or equal to 0.2 m^2/g, comprising

(a) dissolving a drug in a volatile solvent to form a drug solution,

(b) combining at least one volatile solid pore forming agent with the drug solution to form an emulsion, suspension, or second solution,

(c) incorporating at least one excipient into the emulsion, suspension, or second solution, wherein the excipient is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic and hydrophilic excipients which enhance dissolution rate, which stabilize drug in amorphous form by preventing crystallization, and which stabilize drug in crystalline form by inhibiting crystal growth, and

(d) removing the volatile solvent and pore forming agent from the emulsion, suspension, or second solution to yield the porous matrix of drug and excipient.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein step (d) is conducted using a process selected from spray drying, evaporation, fluid bed drying, lyophilization, vacuum drying, or a combination thereof.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the excipients are selected from the group consisting of polymers, amino acids, wetting agents, sugars, preservatives, pegylated excipients, tonicity agents, and combinations thereof.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the matrix comprises between 1 and 95% drug by weight in combination with at least one hydrophilic or hydrophobic excipient which enhances the rate of drug dissolution, stabilizes the drug in crystalline form by inhibiting crystal growth or stabilizes the drug in amorphous form by preventing crystallization.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the pore forming agent is a volatile salt.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the volatile salt is selected from the group consisting of ammonium bicarbonate, ammonium acetate, ammonium chloride, ammonium benzoate, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 22-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of analgesics or antipyretics, antiasthmatics, anti-inflammatories, antimigraine agents, antiarthritic agents, anticonvulsants, antibacterial agents, antiviral agents, and antimicrobials.